



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

FILE 30 (31)

24 JUN 1974

In reply refer to:
1-4935/74

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Mr. Vicente T. Camacho
Speaker
Twenty-Fourth Saipan Legislature
P.O. Box 107
Saipan, Mariana Islands
96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Secretary of Defense has asked me to acknowledge receipt of the Twenty-Fourth Saipan Legislature's Resolution No. 24-17-1974 entitled "A resolution requesting the United States Department of Defense to return all military retention lands within the Marianas District which are not presently in use to the people of the Marianas" forwarded by your letter of May 10, 1974.

As you know from the results of the fourth round of Marianas political status negotiations, completed May 31, 1974 on Saipan, the return of much of these military retention lands is a part of the active negotiations, and the views of the Saipan Municipal Council will be given full consideration in these deliberations.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

T. J. Bigley
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, East Asia & Pacific Region

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THE WHITE HOUSE **Ofc of Mil Asst to the Pres - OK**

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 361
Washington, D.C. 20506

June 24, 1974

Honorable William P. Clements, Jr.
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Clements:

In our conversation of 18 June, I briefed you on our plans for forming a Joint U.S./Marianas Land Committee to conduct sub-negotiations for the acquisition of land to meet agreed U.S. requirements in the Marianas. The prompt activation and timely performance of this committee is essential both to the acquisition of the land and early consumation of the political status negotiations with the Northern Marianas.

Exact terms of reference for the committee are being finalized and will be distributed shortly. However, both sides in the status negotiations have agreed that the following subjects will be considered by this special Joint Land Committee.

- a. Determination of precise acreages and boundaries.
- b. Land price determination.
- c. Method of acquisition.
- d. Joint use of facilities.
- e. Lease-back arrangements.

In the hope that the Joint Land Committee will complete its work by 15 September 1974, I plan for them to begin deliberations on Saipan in mid-July 1974 under the Chairmanship of my Deputy, Mr. James M. Wilson, Jr. Mr. Wilson, in turn, will be continuously represented in Saipan throughout these deliberations by a resident deputy from the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations. As I proposed to the MPSC last May, full membership on the Land Committee would include two representatives from the Department of Defense. Additionally, there is a need for technical advisers to the U.S. team, such as representatives of the Naval Facilities Engineering

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Command, Pacific; Engineering Division Pacific Air Forces and Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Guam. In view of the urgent need to get the Land Committee organized and instructed, it is requested the assignment of DOD members and advisers to the Committee be made as soon as possible.

The Committee will conduct the major portion of its work and all of its deliberations in the Mariana Islands. Therefore Committee members could expect to spend much of this two month assignment in Saipan and Tinian.

Thank you again for your interest and continuing support.



F. Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations